

Two killed after head-on crash near St. Ignatius

By The Associated Press
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ST. IGNATIUS -- A pickup truck crossed the center line and crashed head-on into a car Thursday on U.S. Highway 93 just north of here, killing a Missoula boy and causing fatal injuries to a South Carolina woman, the Montana Highway Patrol said.

The patrol received a report at 4:18 p.m. that a northbound pickup truck, driven by the boy's father, was passing vehicles in a no-passing zone, Trooper Terry Rosenbaum said.

The wreck happened three minutes later, before Rosenbaum could reach the scene.

The pickup crossed the center line and hit a rental car driven by a husband and wife from South Carolina. The pickup flipped over the southbound car, landing on its wheels in the ditch. The woman was airlifted to a Missoula hospital where she was placed on life support. She died overnight, Rosenbaum said. Her husband, who was driving the car, also was injured and taken the hospital. Both were wearing seat belts.

The 6- or 7-year-old boy, who died at the scene, was wearing a seat belt but was not in a child safety seat.

"He definitely should have been in one. He was too small to just be wearing a seat belt," Rosenbaum said.

His father, a Missoula man, was taken to the hospital in Ronan. His injuries did not appear to be life-threatening, Rosenbaum said.

No names were released.

Rosenbaum said the crash remains under investigation, but drug paraphernalia was found in the debris around the wrecked pickup.

The deaths raise the state highway fatality toll to 52, compared with 40 on Sept. 16, 2006.